Dr. Kelly Bergstrand has been an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at Arlington since 2015. She specializes in social movements, environmental sociology, and social psychology. Dr. Bergstrand received an iLASR grant for her research titled “The Effects of Emotions on Collective Action and Activism.” Her current research projects include examining community recovery after environmental disasters and the role of emotions in activism and civic activities.

Dr. Kenton Rambsy has been a professor with the Department of English since 2015. Dr. Rambsy teaches “The Jay Z Class,” a digital humanities course, where students use text-mining software to quantify linguistic and thematic trends between Jay Z’s solo albums and classic literary texts by writers such as Frederick Douglass, Richard Wright, Malcolm X, and Ralph Ellison. Dr. Rambsy received an iLASR grant for his research titled “The Black Data Project.” Currently, he is working on his manuscript, under contract by the University of Mississippi Press, where he analyzes geographic patterns among a selection of short fiction by black writers by using text-mining tools and drawing on an extensive dataset.

Dr. David Arditi has been an assistant professor of Sociology for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology since 2015. He received an iLASR grant to work on a local music archive called “MusicDetour.” His research centers on the way digital technology affects the music industry. Specifically, he finds that major record labels use digital technology to increase their power within the music industry. MusicDetour is an intervention in this ongoing process.
Dr. Sonia Kania has been a professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Languages since 2003. She has received numerous university and college awards to support her research, which centers on the history of the Spanish language, particularly colonial Spanish of Mexico and New Mexico. Dr. Kania received an iLASR grant for her research titled “Data-driven Discovery and the Age of Exploration.” She is currently working on the development of a database of colonial texts for the Digital Library of Old Spanish Texts, which will provide free, open, and interactive access to Spanish texts written in the Americas between 1492 and 1800.

Jamar Jones has been an Adjunct Professor of Music Industry Studies since 2016. He is the co-recipient of an iLASR grant for “UT Arlington Records: Startup, Distribution, and Creative Development.” He has worked with and for some of the music industry’s most respected brands as a producer, composer, arranger, and musician to an impressive list of artists, including Boyz II Men, Musiq Soulchild, Jill Scott, Jaime Foxx, Mary Mary, Usher, and the legendary Ms. Patti Labelle.

Dan Cavanagh has been a professor of jazz studies in the Department of Music since 2005. He is the co-recipient of an iLASR grant for “UT Arlington Records: Startup, Distribution, and Creative Development.” A widely-acclaimed composer and pianist, Professor Cavanagh has performed with, or composed/arranged for a wide variety of top groups and performers across North America and Europe.